

Division of Aging and Adult Services Administrative Letter No. 07-14
Adult Services Section

Date: August 28, 2007

Subject: Applying the October 1, 2007 SA/ACH Rate Increase to SA/In-Home (SA/IH) Cases

Distribution: County Directors
Special Assistance Supervisors
Adult Services Supervisors

Effective Date: October 1, 2007

I. Special Assistance ACH Basic Rate Increase

Session Law 2007-323 was ratified on July 30, 2007. The law contains a provision to increase the maximum basic Adult Care Home facility rate for State/County Special Assistance for Adults.

II. Effects of the SA/ACH Rate Increase on SA/In-Home Payments

The new increased SA/ACH Basic rate is effective October 1, 2007, and will directly impact SA/In-Home eligibility and SA/IH maximum payments. You must manually update all SA/IH cases (ambulation capacity code "H"), based on the SA/ACH rate increase, which is effective October 1, 2007.

A. Maximum SA/ACH Basic Rate Change Effect on SA/In-Home Payments

Effective October 1, 2007, the maximum facility rate for Special Assistance recipients with Ambulation Capacity Code "B" will increase from \$1,148 to \$1,173. There is no change in the personal needs allowance, which is \$46 for all Special Assistance recipients, including the disenfranchised groups.

When calculating the maximum SA/IH Payment (ambulation capacity code "H") base the maximum payment on 75% of the new SA/ACH rate ($\$1,173 + \$46 = \$1,219$) for payments effective October 1, 2007.

Effective **September 17**, an edit will be placed in EIS to allow a **Maintenance Amount up to \$1,127.00** for specified SA cases with an ambulation capacity code 'H', for application approvals or payment changes to ongoing cases if the payment effective date is October 1, 2007. This is based on the following formula:

The maximum Maintenance Amount is determined by calculating the payment for a recipient with the highest allowable income. The maximum

allowable payment for an individual with \$851 TCMI is \$276.00 ($\$1,219 - \$851 = \$368 \times 0.75$ (75% of the maximum ACH payment for this income amount) = \$276.00 rounded to the nearest dollar = \$276.00). The maximum Maintenance Amount is $\$851.00 + \$276.00 = \$1,127.00$.

B. SA In-Home Case Manager Make the Final Decision on Increased SA/IH Payments

SA In-Home Program recipients have a case manager and a service plan. It is important that SA/IH caseworkers coordinate with SA/IH case managers to ensure that they are aware of any changes in eligibility and/or new potential SA/IH payment amounts.

This is so the case manager can assess how much of the changed SA/IH maximum payment the recipient will require in order to remain safely at home. Alter service plans as necessary.

III. Procedures for Manually Updating Ongoing Cases

A. Report of Current SA In-Home Recipients as of September 14, 2007

A report has been created in NCXPTR under the name: **DHREJA SA DEMO IN-HOME AS OF**. The report is entitled: SA IN-HOME RECIPIENTS AS OF SEP14 2007. This report identifies all Special Assistance Cases that contain an ambulation capacity code 'H' as of the night of September 14, 2007. To access, it may be necessary to add this report your profile.

B. Updating Ongoing SA In-Home Cases

1. Calculate the new maximum SA/IH payment using 75% of the SA/ACH Basic payment based on the new rate ($\$1,173 + \$46.00 = \$1,219$).
2. The new SA/IH maintenance amount cannot be more than \$1,127.
3. Coordinate with the SA/IH case manager for his/her decision of what the actual SA/IH payment needs to be for each recipient.
4. Send a timely notice to notify the recipient of the change.
5. Key a DSS-8125 no later than **September 28, 2007** (pull/reissue deadline) to reflect the correct payment amount effective October 1, 2007 or termination.

IV. APPLICATIONS AND REAPPLICATIONS APPROVED ON or AFTER September 17, 2007

A. Payments Effective Prior to October 1, 2007

1. Use the maximum SA/IH payment calculations for benefit months prior to October 2007, based on 75% of the January 2007 SA/ACH Basic rate ($\$1,148 + \$46.00 = \$1,194$).
2. The maintenance amount for payments prior to October 2007 cannot be more than \$1,108.
3. Key the DSS-8125 and/or DMA-5022 to approve the case and issue benefits. You may notify the recipient on the approval notice of the payment amounts prior to and after October 1, 2007.

B. Payments Effective October 1, 2007

1. Calculate the new maximum SA/IH payment using 75% of the SA/ACH payment based on the new rate ($\$1,173 + \$46.00 = \$1,219$).
2. The new SA/IH maintenance amount cannot be more than \$1,127.
3. To determine the final SA/IH payment follow the steps in IV. A. above. Update the case in EIS and send the appropriate notice.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact your Adult Programs Representative or either Brenda Porter, Special Assistance Program Coordinator, or Chris Urso, Special Assistance Program Administrator, at 919-733-3818.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis W. Streets". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' at the end.

Dennis W. Streets, Director

DWS/SPM:bp